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Accordingly, the drawings show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Accordingly, the objection to the drawings is not warranted and should be withdrawn.

Reconsideration of the rejection of claims 1 to 7 is requested.

Claim 1 has been rejected as being anticipated by Harrison. Issue is taken in this respect.

First, claim 1 is directed to a steam expander. As the Examiner has noted, Harrison is directed to a method for preparing animal food pellets. Accordingly, Harrison is directed to a non-analogous structure to the structure of claim 1.

Second, claim 1 requires "at least one hopper for supplying expandable loose fill material". As the Examiner has noted, Harrison is used to convey mash. Accordingly, Harrison is void of any teaching of a hopper for supplying expandable loose fill material.

Third, claim 1 requires "a paddle frame rotatably mounted in said chamber to rotate about a central axis" and that this paddle frame has "at least one scoop mounted on a periphery thereof and extending longitudinally thereof in spaced parallel relation to said central axis". Harrison is void of any such structure.

The Examiner in clarification of his interpretation of the paddle conveyor 17 of Harrison states that his statement should be understood "if the paddles were rotating about the horizontal shaft of chamber 6 in a non-axial manner". Whatever that means, the fact is that the illustrated radially extending flat plates do not rotate in a non-axial manner.

Further, the Examiner's statement "that if the panels are rotated in an axial manner about the horizontal shaft, that this configuration would also meet applicant's claim limitations." is not understood. Again, the fact is that the illustrated horizontal shaft of the paddle conveyor 17 is disposed on a horizontal axis and rotates about that

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horizontal axis. The flat plates that extend radially from this shaft also rotate with the shaft about this axis.

Further, as noted in the previous Amendment, there is no scoop mounted on a periphery of the alleged paddle frame (i.e. horizontal shaft and radially directed plates) of Harrison and there is no scoop that extends longitudinally of the paddle frame in spaced relation to the central axis.

The Examiner alleges that the "scoops 17" of Harrison (i.e. actually radially disposed flat plates) have a longitudinal extent along the periphery of the horizontal shaft. However, Fig. 1 of Harrison shows that each of these alleged scoops 17 is disposed at an angle to the shaft, i.e. the scoops 17 do not extend longitudinally of the shaft.

Note is made of the Examiner's allegation that applicants failed to include or further claim any structure whatsoever within the claim language towards "a paddle frame". Issue is taken in this respect. Specifically, reference is made to claim 1 for the detailed claiming of a paddle frame.

Claims 2 to 8 depend from claim 1 and are believed to be allowable for similar reasons.

Further, claim 2 requires a paddle frame of claim 1 to have "a pair of said scoops disposed on diametrically opposite sides thereon." As can be seen in Fig. 1 of Harrison, the radially disposed plates are not on diametrically opposite sides of the shaft. In fact, the plates are spaced along the length of the shaft and are diametrically offset from each other. Accordingly, a rejection of claim 2 as being anticipated by Harrison is not warranted pursuant to the provisions of 35 USC 102.

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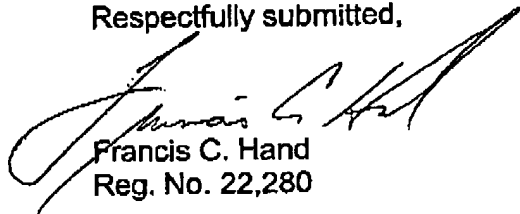
Claim 3 further requires each stoop to be of L-shape. Harrison employs flat plates. A cross section of each plate is shown in Fig. 1. There is no showing of an L-shaped plate in Fig. 1 of Harrison. Accordingly, a rejection of claim 3 as being anticipated by Harrison is not warranted pursuant to the provisions of 35 USC 102.

Claim 5 contains recitation similar to claim 1 and is believed to be allowable for similar reasons.

Claims 6 and 7 contain recitations similar to claims 2 and 3, respectively. Accordingly, a rejection of each of claim 6 and 7 as being unpatentable over Harrison in view of Trotter and Martin is not warranted pursuant to the provisions of 35 USC 103 for reasons as expressed above.

In order to clarify the understanding of the undersigned, it is requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned should this Amendment not place the application in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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